

Société historique du Canada

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES
NOUVELLES DES ARCHIVES

The University of Calgary Library celebrated the arrival of a significant collection of folk music and folklore materials from the estate of Edith Fowke. Fowke, a folklore researcher and educator, also made major contributions of archival materials and sound recordings to the library during her lifetime. Her personal archive is housed in special collections, and books and sound recordings are in the music collection of MacKimmie Library. For further information, please access <http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/departments/INFO/library/SpecColl/fowke.htm>.

The Canadian Donner Foundation has awarded Carleton University's Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations (CCRR) a grant to assist in its research for documents on Canada located in Russian and Ukrainian archival collections. After three years of preliminary investigation, a CCRR team has located some 200,000 pages of documents about Canada located in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev and L'viv. Allowing for new perspectives on Canada, these documents span over 150 years of history through the Gorbachev era. Among the myriad subjects they cover are the following: the long-standing importance to Russia and the USSR of Canada's strategic location between Britain, the USA, and Russia; the role played in Russian economic development by Massey-Harris agricultural equipment, and the CPR as a model for the Trans-Siberian Railway; the Imperial Russian and Soviet perspective on the emigration of Doukhobors, Mennonites, and others to Canada; an inside-the-Kremlin version of our wartime alliance; and links between the Canadian Communist Party and the CPSU. Documents on diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations abound. For more details, contact the Centre for Research on Canadian-Russian Relations, Carleton University, Room 2011 Dunton Tower, Ottawa, ON, Canada K1S 5B6; Tel: (613) 520-6648; Fax: (613) 520-4439.

The Dr. Esther Clark Wright Collection at the Acadia University Archives offers a rich source to women's history. The collection of approximately 3000 letters, telegrams and postcards reveal the intimate and professional details of Dr. Wright's long and varied life (1895-1990). It remains an excellent source for scholars interested in women's history, the history of Acadia University and the history of the Annapolis Valley. Wright completed her honours BA in economics at Acadia in 1916 before going on to Toronto, Oxford and Harvard-Radcliffe. She wrote 15 books and many journal articles. *Alexander Clark: Loyalist and Planters and Pioneers: Nova Scotia, 1749-1775* are her two most respected books. She also served on several committees and boards. She was Vice President of the National Council of Women (1951-1954) and Vice President of the Canadian Federation of University Women (1952-1955). Her active life is well documented in this collection. The letters written in the years 1912 to 1916 provide valuable information about female culture, residence life, and experiences at Acadia University. Esther wrote to her mother at least once a week, and often to her

father and two younger brothers, describing her social activities and studies in detail. The impact of the First World War on Acadia is also well-documented through these letters. Her account of the early twenties supplies historians with the tale of an unusual wooing. Esther married Conrad Wright after a fairly lengthy courtship on July 31, 1924. The romance was almost solely dependent on letters, as the two were a country apart for months at a time. Through these love letters, we learn about their views on relationships, marriage, family, and education. Esther was deeply involved with women's organizations and with the Baptist church, and often gives her opinions (which are frequently delightfully frank) of the women's groups she was involved in, and occasionally offers her views on new ministers and speakers in the church. The collection illustrates Wright's involvement in the domestic sphere and provides many glimpses of Wright's role in the public sphere.

New President for SSHRC

On July 9, Industry Minister John Manley announced the appointment of Dr. Marc Renaud as President of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada effective September 2, 1997. A Professor in the Department of Sociology at the Université de Montréal and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Dr. Renaud was Director of the Groupe de Recherche sur les aspects sociaux de la santé et de la prévention (GRASP) from 1984 to 1991. Former President of the Conseil québécois de la recherche sociale, he also served as Vice-President of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

Nouveau président au CRSH

Le 9 juillet, le ministre de l'Industrie, M. John Manley, a annoncé la nomination de M. Marc Renaud au poste de président du Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada. M. Renaud a pris ses fonctions le 2 septembre 1997. Professeur titulaire au Département de sociologie à l'Université de Montréal et membre de la Société royale du Canada, M. Renaud a été directeur du Groupe de recherche sur les aspects sociaux de la santé et de la prévention (GRASP) de 1984 à 1991. Ancien président du Conseil québécois de la recherche sociale, il a été vice-président de l'Institut canadien des recherches avancées.